



# Mishawaka Communicator



*Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.*

Mishawaka, Indiana

Jeff Rea, Mayor

November 2008

## Getting Ready for Winter

With the winter season fast approaching, most citizens of Mishawaka probably don't want to think about snow. Perhaps some even refuse to use the dreaded word. City workers, however, are bracing for the inevitable. They're getting ready for the day - or night - when snowplows must hit the streets. With that in mind we thought that it might be helpful to give you some information that would help better prepare you for winter season ahead.

### Leaf Pick-Up

Mishawaka's annual fall leaf pick-up program will begin on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. This means that Mishawaka residents may begin raking leaves to their curbside starting the weekend of October 18<sup>th</sup>. Leaves will be picked up each week the day before each resident's regular trash day. Leaves should be raked to the edge of the curb and should be free of branches, twigs, stones or similar foreign objects. As always, the leaf collection program will continue through November or until leaves are no longer a problem for residents. Questions about the program can be answered by the Mishawaka Street Department at 258-1660.

### Winter Health Risks

The American Heart and Stroke Foundation recommends people with an increased risk of a cardiac event should approach snow shoveling with caution. Those who decide to shovel anyway should use these tips:

- Take time to do warm-up exercises to get your body accustomed to the cold
- Take frequent breaks. Listen to your body. Stop if you develop pain or trouble breathing.
- Don't keep shoveling just to get done. If you tire, quit.
- Plan ahead. Avoid rushing and allow for adequate time to clear the snow.

### Hometown Holidays

Join Mayor Jeff Rea in welcoming the holiday's to Mishawaka at Hometown Holidays 2008. This year Hometown Holidays will take place on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 5:30p.m. in Beutter Park. This annual event is co-sponsored by the Mishawaka Business Association (MBA) and the City of Mishawaka and includes the Mishawaka High School Madrigal Singers, Sleigh rides through Beutter Park, pictures with Santa Clause, and the lighting of the downtown holiday tree. Hometown Holidays will kick off when Santa Claus and Mayor Jeff Rea arrive by Fire Truck to light the downtown holiday tree.

### Help with Heating Costs

REAL Services' Energy Assistance Program will be helping qualified low-income households with electric and heating expenses again this winter. Households must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines to qualify.

Assistance is in the form of a one time credit paid directly to the utility companies, and approved families are protected from disconnection during the winter heating season. Those interested in applying for assistance can contact REAL Services at 232-6501 or at 1-800-225-3367.

### Winter Water Tips

Make sure to disconnect your garden hose from outdoor hose bib. Hoses connected to hose bibs during freezing temperatures can lead to broken plumbing indoors and outdoors.

Irrigation systems should be shut off for winter. You can do this by turning off the appropriate valve controlling the system, then properly purge the irrigation pipes of water, usually by the use of compressed air. This may require the assistance of an irrigation technician. Don't forget to turn off the timer that controls the irrigation zone.

### Abandoned Vehicles

If your vehicle breaks down on a public street please remove the vehicle as soon as possible so that the City can adequately remove snow from our streets.

Vehicles kept on private property must be properly plated and operable. No vehicles of any kind can be parked in the front yard. If a vehicle is not properly plated and operable, it must be stored in the garage. To report a vehicle that is not properly plated or operable call the Mishawaka Police Department non emergency number 258-4678.

## This Month:

Getting Ready for Winter  
Mishawaka Water Quality Survey

## Next Month:

New Trash Information

All past issues of the  
Communicator are available at  
[www.mishawakacity.com](http://www.mishawakacity.com)

## Snow Shoveling

### Residents:

According to City Ordinance, snow on sidewalks must be shoveled 24-hours after each snowfall. This Ordinance is enforced by the Code Enforcement Department

### Business Owners:

It is the responsibility of business owners to keep the sidewalks cleared in front of your storefront. If you have contracted persons to plow your lot please make sure they do not deposit plowed snow across sidewalks or ingress or egress points.

## Plowing Snow

When leaf pick-up ends we begin our preparation for snow removal. With the dedicated work of our employees, we try very hard to have all City streets plowed curb-to-curb within 24-hours. This is no small task - We plow over 400 lane miles of roadway, including 235 cul-de-sac and dead-end streets.

Due to the rising cost of road salt, this year, we plan to use a sand/salt mixture and liquid anti-icing agents. This will prevent snow from sticking to the roadway, making plowing snow easier.

# Mishawaka Water Quality Survey

Please complete the following survey to help us with our efforts to evaluate water quality awareness. Please return this form with your utility payment. All entries received before December 15th will be entered into a drawing to win lunch with Mayor Jeff Rea.

T = True F = False N = Not Sure

I. Mishawaka Services	T	F	N
1. Mishawaka has a facility for disposal of household waste items such as used oil and paint.			
2. Storm Sewers in Mishawaka take water to the wastewater treatment facility.			
3. Mishawaka's storm sewers empty directly into the river without being treated.			
4. Mishawaka has street sweepers that clean every public street in Mishawaka once a week.			
5. Sanitary sewers take household wastes like flushing the toilet to the wastewater treatment facility.			
6. The City of Mishawaka spends more than \$500,000 per year to prevent storm water pollution.			
7. Mishawaka has a detailed plan to reduce river pollution from storm water run-off.			
8. "MS4" stands for Mishawaka Sanitary-sewer, Storm-sewer, and Septic-sewer.			
9. Mishawaka schools teach students about proper disposal of hazardous household waste.			

T = True F = False N = Not Sure

II. Local Environmental Awareness	T	F	N
10. Rain water that runs off of my property eventually ends up in the St. Joseph River.			
11. A storm sewer system treats the water from rain and other precipitation before it enters the river			
12. Combined sewers direct sanitary wastes and storm water to the wastewater treatment facility.			
13. Oil that drips off of cars onto the street and onto parking lots can increase river pollution.			
14. Fertilizer put on lawns can contribute to ground water and river pollution.			
15. Construction sites contribute to pollution if the soil runs into storm sewers during a rainstorm			
16. Contractors at new home sites are required to keep streets free from mud and dirt.			
17. Fertilizer and chemicals used in farming outside the City contribute to pollution in Mishawaka.			
18. Factories and manufacturing plants are contributors to storm water pollution in Mishawaka.			
19. Litter thrown on streets can be washed into storm sewers and the river.			

In the following section, leave items blank if they do not apply to you.

N = Never S = Sometimes A = Always

III. Personal Habits	N	S	A
20. I change my own motor oil and I dispose of the used oil in the trash.			
21. I change my own motor oil and I take the oil to a recycling center or local oil change service.			
22. I take my car to a garage or service center to have the oil changed.			
23. When fertilizer is applied to my yard, I water it more to make it green..			
24. I dispose of household chemical products and their empty containers in the trash.			
25. I wash my own car, and the soapy water runs into the storm sewer drains.			
26. I take used paint thinner, anti-freeze, ect. To a proper disposal site..			
27. When I walk my dog, I clean up after it.			
28. I would report a neighbor or local business for improper disposal of motor oil or pesticides..			

This section is optional; your answers will help us plan to improve the quality of life in out community.

29. Circle your age: 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 65+

30. Do you own or rent your home? Own Rent

31. How many years have you lived in Mishawka? 0-10 11-20 21-30 31-40 41-50 51+

\*\*\*Name and phone number are required to be eligible for the drawing to win lunch with the Mayor.\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_